

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

SAM-01 IO-11 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-05 AF-06

EUR-12 SAJ-01 ARA-06 /093 W

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O R 091210Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3311

INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

CONFIDENTIAL NEW DELHI 0467

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, IN

SUBJECT: RECOGNITION OF ANGOLA: INDIAN POSITION

1. IN CONVERSATION WITH SEN.I

CGOVERN, JAN. 9, FONMIN CHAVAN

OBSERVED THAT THE SOVIETS AND CUBANS, UNLIKE OTHER COUNTRIES, HAD BEEN ASSOCIATED WITH THE LIBERATION STRUGGLE IN ANGOLA DURING ITS EARLY STAGES. HE THOUGHT SOUTH AFRICAN INTERVENTION WAS "SINISTER", SAYING THAT IT REPRESENTED THE OLD STYLE OF COLONIALISM. IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION FROM THE SENATOR AS TO WHETHER IT WOULD NOT BE BETTER TO LEAVE THE ANGOLANS ALONE TO HANDLE THEIR PROBLEMS AND GOVT, CHAVAN AGREED. HE SAID THAT "WE HAVE BEEN ATTEMPTING FROM THE TIME OF THE LIMA CONFERENCE IN 1975 TO GET THEM TO COOPERATE" AND HAD CALLED ON THE OAU TO MOVE UNITEDLY ON THIS PROBLEM BUT SOME OF THE OAU STATES "FOR THEIR OWN REASONS" WOULD NOT. INDIA HAD NOT YET RECOGNIZED ANY OF THE CONTESTING PARTIES BUT WAS WAITING FOR THE OAU MEETING THIS WEEKEND TO SEE IF THERE WAS A CONSENSUS. INDIA WOULD LIKE TO FOLLOW WHAT OAU "UNANIMOUSLY" DECIDED TO DO. IF THE OAU DIDN'T DECIDE, "IT WILL BE VERY DIFFI-

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CULT." NEVERTHELESS, SOUTH AFRICA'S ENTRANCE WITH ITS

OWN FORCES WAS SOMETHING ASIAN COUNTRIES LIKE INDIA FOUND
VERY DIFFICULT TO ACCEPT.

2. SPEAKING TO THE LOK SABHA JAN. 9, DEPUTY FONMIN B.P.
DAS SAID THAT INDIA WAS WATCHING DEVELOPMENTS AND THE OUT-
COME OF THE OAU CONFERENCE BEFORE CONSIDERING THE QUESTION
OF RECOGNIZING THE ANGOLAN GOVT.

3. YUGOSLAV CHARGE TOLD EMBOFF TODAY THAT GOI HAD BEEN
UNDER VERY HEAVY PRESSURE FROM MANY NON-ALIGNED STATES TO
RECOGNIZE MPLA AND HE FELT IT WAS VERY LIKELY GOI WOULD DO
SO AFTER OAU MEETING EVEN IF NO CLEAR CONSENSUS REACHED IN
VIEW OF RECOGNITION OF MPLA BY OVER HALF OF OAU MEMBERS.
HE ARGUED THAT GOI RECOGNITION WOULD BE RESULT OF INTENSE
EFFORTS BY OTHER NON-ALIGNED. HE THOUGHT SOVIET INVOLVEMENT
HAD, IF ANYTHING, ACTED TO INHIBIT GOI RECOGNITION OF MPLA.

4. COMMENT: CHAVAN'S REMARKS SUGGEST INDIANS MAY STILL BE
UNDECIDED ON RECOGNITION IF OAU CONSENSUS NOT REACHED. WE
BELIEVE THERE IS LITTLE PROSPECT OF INDIANS HOLDING BACK
IF OAU TAKES CLEARCUT POSITION, OR OF OUR BEING ABLE TO
OFFER ANY ARGUMENTS WHICH WOULD BE EFFECTIVE IN FACE OF
SUCH A DEVELOPMENT. WE WILL, HOWEVER, CONTINUE TO PRESS
GOI OFFICIALS STRONGLY TO WITHHOLD RECOGNITION, PARTICULARLY
IF AFRICAN STATES THEMSELVES ARE UNABLE TO REACH
AGREEMENT ON THE SUBJECT.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, INTERVENTION, RECOGNITION, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 09 JAN 1976
Decapton Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decapton Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: saccheem
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976NEWDE00467
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760008-0453
From: NEW DELHI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760171/aaaacljm.tel
Line Count: 88
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: saccheem
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07 JUN 2004 by GarlanWA>; APPROVED <30 SEP 2004 by saccheem>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RECOGNITION OF ANGOLA: INDIAN POSITION
TAGS: PFOR, OREP, IN, AO, UR, CU, SF, (CHAVAN, Y B), (MCGOVERN, GEORGE)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006